(b) To ensure the financial health of the OMCs, the OMCs were issued Oil Bonds for Rs.71,292 crore by the Government and the Upstream Oil PSUs contributed Rs.32,000 crore to them through price discounts on crude oil and finished products during the year 2008-09. In addition, the upstream oil companies also contributed Rs.943 crore towards import losses of OMCs. With this financial support in the form of Oil Bonds and upstream contribution, the OMCs were able to avoid going into losses, and reported meagre profits during 2008-09, as shown below:

	Rs. Crore
IOC	2950
BPC	736
HPC	575
TOTAL :	4261

In view of the OMCs' growing under-recoveries during 2009-10. the retail selling prices of Petrol and Diesel have also been increased by Rs.4/litre and Rs.2/litre respectively with effect from 2nd July 2009, which will have a positive impact on the financial health of the OMCs. Besides, it has been decided that under-recoveries on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG during 2009-10 will be borne by the Government.

(c) to (d) The expenses of Ministers and Officers are regulated in accordance with the guidelines issued from time to time by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

River cleaning project

*233.DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce another project for cleaning of different rivers, particularly the Ganges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the Authority. Other members include the Union Ministers concerned, the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, *viz.*, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga in keeping with sustainable development

needs. These include development of a river basin management plan, maintenance of minimum ecological flows, augmentation of sewerage infrastructure, catchment area treatment, etc. This initiative is aimed towards rejuvenating the collective efforts of the Centre and the States for cleaning the river. The Central Government has also initiated measures such as concurrent evaluation of schemes to improve implementation of National River Conservation Plan.

Field trials of GM crops

*234.SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether open field trials of BT rice were conducted in Jharkhand, while the central regulatory body stipulates restricted trial, under controlled surroundings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government has taken or proposes to take a check open field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops by MNCs, in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Company, Mumbai had conducted confined experiment field trials during Rabi-2007 to generate biosafety and agronomic data at 11 locations, *viz.* Anand in Gujarat, Bhandara and Rajgad in Maharashtra, South 24 Parganas and Midnapur in West Bengal, Gaya in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Davangere and Mandya in Karnataka and Tanjore and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu in accordance with the biosafety norms stipulated by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

(c) The Biosafety measures stipulated by the GEAC to prevent possible contamination due to gene flow during experimental field trials with GM crops by public and private institutions are subject to stringent norms such as; (i) maintaining a crop specific isolation distance as well as biological and physical barriers as per the 'Minimum Indian Seed Certification Standards' recommended by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; (ii) submission of a validated event specific protocol to detect the level of contamination at 0.01% LOD before initiating the field trials as per the. Hon'ble Supreme Court direction dated 8.5.2007; (iii) designating a lead scientist responsible for the field trials; (iv) monitoring of field trials by a monitoring committee; and (v) post harvest restrictions.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority

*235.SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Authority (CAMPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAMPA has some issues with the Himachal Pradesh Government over outstandings, due to which it has not yet started releasing funds to the State Government for implementation of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme due to which Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plans under implementation have been withheld;